

Ho-102

Sarah Jane Powell Log Cabin
Cooksville
Private

circa 1859

This log cabin faces east on the west side of Route 97 and was built from trees found on the property by the Thomas Hood family for Sarah Jane Powell Dorsey, "late their slave for her unwavering fidelity and general moral worth as a servant."

It is a three bay wide, one room deep, one and a half story high, gabled roof (running north-south) log cabin. Its wide exterior stone chimney rests in the center of its north wall, topped by a tall, square brick chimney.

A one story high, shed roofed, one bay wide, frame addition runs along the entire west elevation.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

HO-102
District 4
MAGI # 140102504

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC Sarah Jane Powell Log Cabin

AND/OR COMMON Albert E. France Log Cabin

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER 2240 (Route 97) Roxbury Mills Road

CITY, TOWN Cooksville VICINITY OF 6th

STATE Maryland COUNTY Howard

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Mr. Albert E. France Telephone #: 489-4163

STREET & NUMBER 2240 Route 97

CITY, TOWN Cooksville VICINITY OF Maryland 21723

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, Tax Map 14 p.31 Liber #: 136
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Hall of Records Folio #: 6
STREET & NUMBER Land Access: 4900
Howard County Court House Building Access: 2250
CITY, TOWN Total Access: 7150

CITY, TOWN Ellicott City STATE Maryland

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE Howard County Historic Sites Inventory

DATE 1977 ☐ FEDERAL ☒ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS Maryland Historical Trust

CITY, TOWN 21 State Circle, Annapolis STATE Maryland

7 DESCRIPTION

HO-102
District 4

CONDITION

☒ EXCELLENT
☐ GOOD
☐ FAIR

☐ DETERIORATED
☐ RUINS
☐ UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

☐ UNALTERED
☒ ALTERED

CHECK ONE

☒ ORIGINAL SITE
☐ MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Sarah Jane Powell Log Cabin is located on the west side of Route 97 about one half mile south of the interchange with Route 144. It is a three bay wide, one room deep, one and a half story high, gabled roof (running north-south) log cabin. A wide exterior stone chimney rests in the center of the north wall and is topped by a tall, square brick chimney. This elevation hold no window openings.

The cabin faces east and holds a central battan wood door constructed of planks sawn from Walnut trees on the property. Mount Gregory Methodist Church came off the same land belonging to Thomas Hood of Lisbon. Rectangular, double-hung windows rest on each side of the doorway, that on the north holds six-over-six lights and that on the south holds two-over-two lights. Above rest smaller second floor windows with one-over-one lights.

The south elevation holds only one window, a double-hung attic window with two-over-two lights. A cellar door with a wooden cover is located on this elevation.

Along the entire west elevation lies a one story high, shed roofed, one bay wide, frame addition which holds two rectangular, double-hung windows with six-over-six lights in the west wall, a rectangular entrance in the south wall and a rectangular, double-hung window to the west of a tall, square, brick covered with cement chimney on the north wall. A single small second floor window rests in the north bay of the west wall, holding one-over-two lights.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD		AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY) Black History	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES circa 1850 BUILDER/ARCHITECT Thomas Hood

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Sarah Jane Powell was set free by Thomas Hood and given this piece of property on which this house was built and given to her around the year 1850. It was constructed of materials found on the property.

Thomas Hood was one of the first three County Commissioners for Howard County in 1851, and owned large tracts of land in the vicinity of Lisbon, Cooksville and Sykesville.

Sarah Jane Powell was born in Lisbon in 1828. Her sisters and brothers were all sold to plantations near New Orleans, Louisiana. She married Alfred Dorsey. They made their home here, raising four sons and two daughters. A notation in an old family bible indicates their son Joseph Dorsey was born here in 1865. Joseph and his two brothers Albert and Tob all settled on adjoining land.

Ella Dorsey, one of the two girls born here in the cabin married George Berry and moved to Baltimore. She was Mr. Albert France's grandmother and lived in a large house on Gilmore Street in Baltimore. She, like her mother had a very pleasant face, and was a loveable, well-settled kind of person. White or colored - all stopped to see her as they did her mother Sarah Jane. Ella and George had four children. He died and Ella remarried and had four more children. Ella and Jennie were sisters. Ella's daughter Sarah Jane Berry was born in Baltimore on May 25, 1893 and married Louis W. France (b. September 6, 1890) on May 18, 1911.

Sarah Jane and Louis France had the following children: Evelyn E. France, April 15, 1911; James Louis France, November 24, 1912; Eva V. France - August 10, 1914; and Albert E. France, January 5, 1917.

These four children made the fourth generation stemming from Sarah Jane Powell Dorsey. Evelyn was the only one to have children and had two daughters Veronica (b. August 8, 1934) and Ramona Johnson Hall. (January 16, 1938) Veronica married Paul Stanton and had one son, Van L. Stanton and one daughter Jan L. Stanton, born on July 15, 1955.(6th generation). Jan Stanton married Larry Marshall on August 24, 1974. They have a daughter born on September 30, 1975, named Yonnette. Yonnette who visited the old log cabin on her mother's birthday makes the seventh generation.

Ramona Johnson Hall had four daughters and two sons. They are Moneves va Duncan Hall, Deborah R. Hall, Jasmine Hall, Shelby Angel Hall, James A.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

Hall III and Careous Hall.

Jasamine Hall has a five year old Daughter, Jacinta P. Kelly who also is a seventh generation member of Sarah Jane Powell Dorsey's family.

Sarah Jane Powell Dorsey is buried in Bushy Park's Joshua Cemetery. Her little granddaughter Josephine, is buried in a small graveyard just south of the log cabin. Her tombstone reads:

Born August 16, 1885
Dies October 12, 1886
Age 1 year 1 month and 26 days

Little Fennie was a darling pride of all our hearts at home. I loved her oh perhaps too well for soon she slept and died. How much she suffered there's none can tell but God come and took the sufferer home.
by her mother

The property of this little log cabin is still surrounded by adjoining family members. On its north side is Eugene Dorsey, Sarah Jane Dorsey's grandson; on the west side her granddaughter Katie S. Miles; on the south about 3/10 mile west on Miller's Mill Road live Hallie and Thany Dorsey, daughters of Sarah's son Albert.

Mr. Albert France related that Sarah Jane Powell was set free by Mr. and Mrs. Thomas J. Hood before the 1860's. On the fourth of May in 1869, Sarah Hood, J. Eugene Buck and Josephine Buck, his wife, of Howard County in the state of Maryland deeded the present property to Sarah Jane Powell Dorsey. The deed reads as follows:

. . . Whereas the said Sarah Hood desires to manifest her regard for Sarah Jane Dorsey, colored, late her slave for the unwavering fidelity and general moral worth as a servant and for that purpose has purchased from the above named J. Eugene Buck and paid him for the following described lot of land which she designs as a gift to the said Sarah Jane Dorsey. Now therefore . . . J. Eugene Buck, et al. do grant unto the said Sarah Jane Dorsey and her children in fee simple, all that parcel of land lying in Howard County, aforesaid, on the west side of the Washington Road, called "Poverty Discovered" which is contained within the following metes and bounds . . .

As an example of an early log cabin owned by a freed black woman, this structure has outstanding significance in the black history of Howard County and as such should be placed on the National Register of Historic Places. Her association with the Hood family, early settlers and leaders of Howard County gives added authority to her home's historic significance.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Land Records of Howard County, Maryland
Interview with Mr. Albert E. France
July 15, 1977.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 1.09 Acres

Please see Attachment I
Tax Map 14, p. 31

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Beginning at the beginning of a conveyance from William A. Williams and others to the late Thomas H. Hood and running thence binding on the first line of the said conveyance north forty four degrees east twenty five and a quarter perches, to the west edge of the aforesaid road and binding thereon, south eight and a quarter degrees west twenty six and a quarter perches, to the given line of

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	Maryland	COUNTY	Howard
STATE		COUNTY	

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Cleora Barnes Thompson, Archivist

ORGANIZATION

Office of Planning & Zoning-Comprehensive Planning Section

DATE

TELEPHONE

STREET & NUMBER

3450 Court House Drive

CITY OR TOWN

Ellicott City

STATE

Maryland

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 267-1438

said conveyance and then binding on said line north fifty eight and a half degrees west seventeen and three quarters perches to the beginning, containing one and a quarter acres of land more or less.

~~HO-620~~

~~HO-118~~

~~140118~~ ~~1104~~

HO-102

Albert France Log Cabin
Rt 97, Coopersville (District 4)

located in field by MOB
7/22/70

* See Wilson's, Maryland's Colonial Mansions

13. LOG CABIN

~~HO-620~~ ~~HO-118~~
HO-102

Having once been caught in the lenses
of Mr. Aubrey Bodine, this old log
structure speaks eloquently of its age.
It is the home of Mr. and Mrs. Albert France.

tax Map #14, p. 31

Lewis W. H. France

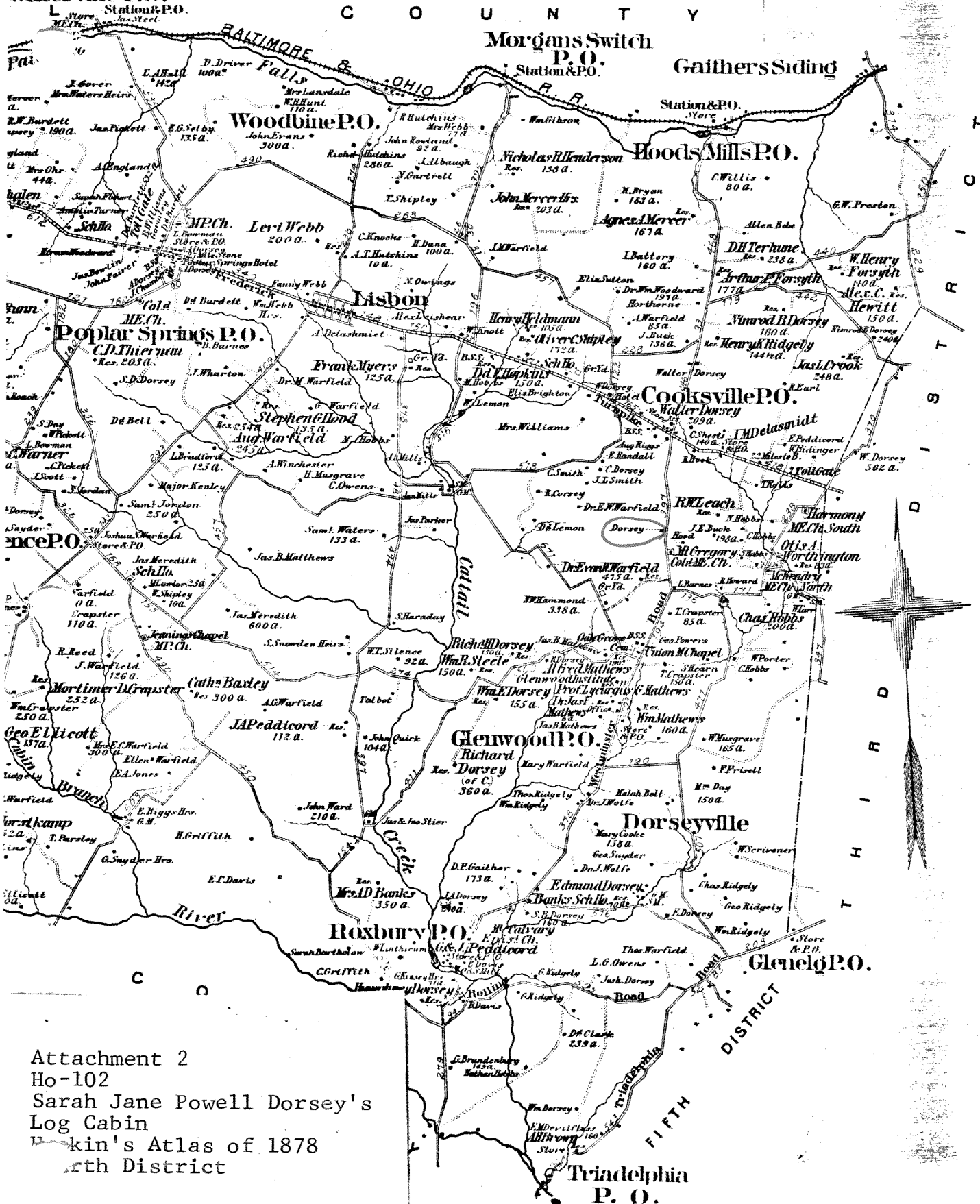
136/6

1.25 A.

(Ad. Pay)

Attachment I
Ho-102
Sarah Jane Powell Log
Cabin
Tax Map 14

Waterville P.O.



Map of Congress in the year 1878 by E. M. Hopkins, in the Office of the Librarian of Congress at Washington.

5662 IV SW (SYKESVILLE)
WEST FRIENDSHIP 2 1/2 MI.
ELLICOTT CITY 12 MI.

HO-102

Sarah Jane Powell Log Cabin

Jennifer K. Cosham

April 16, 2004

Digital color photo on file at MHT



H0-102
Sarah Jane Powell Log Cabin

Jennifer K. Cosham
April 16, 2004
Digital color photo on file at MHT



HO-102
Sarah Jane Powell Log Cabin
(France cemetery)

Jennifer K. Cosham
April 16, 2004
Digital color photo on file at MHT



140-102
Sarah Jane Powell Log Cabin
(France Cemetery)

Jennifer K. Cosham
April 16, 2004
Digital color photo on file at MHT





~~H0118~~

H0-102

568A

88c 6/72

Albert France's log cabin



HIC-102
SARAH JANE POWELL LOG
CABIN

NORTHEAST
CB THOMPSON
SEPT 1977